

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IZMIR 00190 090651Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 DRC-01 /063 W
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R 051300Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL IZMIR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2093
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 190 VICE 195)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, TV
SUBJECT: MAY 1 DEMONSTRATION IN IZMIR

1. A SMALL MAY 1 DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE IN IZMIR
DURING THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 1 PROCEEDING ALONG THE
TRADITIONAL MARCH ROUTE AND ENDING UP AT CUMHURIYET
SQUARE. NO INCIDENTS OCCURRED DURING THE DEMONSTRATION
NOR WHEN IT BROKE UP. PARTICIPANTS , WHOSE NUMBERS
WERE VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED BETWEEN 1500 AND 4000, WERE
GENERALLY YOUNG AND REPRESSXTED EXTREME LEFTIST GROUPS
INCLUDING REPORTEDLY FEDERATION OF PATRIOTIC REFORMIST

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YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS, REFORMIST TOBACCO WORKERS,
PATRIOTIC REFORMIST EMPLOYEES, PATRIOTIC REFORMIST
HEALTH EMPLOYEES AND THE CAMDIBI PEOPLE'S LIBERATION
SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION. LEFTIST SLOGANS WERE CHANTED,
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RUNNING THE GAMUT FROM "DEATH TO FACISM, FREEDOM TO
THE PEOPLE", THROUGH "LONG LIVE THE MAY FIRST LABOR
HOLIDAY" TO "NEITHER AMERICA NOR RUSSIA, FREEDOM TO THE
PEOPLE". INTERESTINGLY, ONE REPORTED SLOGAN WAS
"KUDURA AZADI (INDEPENDENCE TO KURDS). IT APPEARED
THAT DISK RELATED UNIONS DID NOT PARTICIPATE AND IN FACT
DISK HAD ANNOUNCED THAT IT'S MEMBERS SHOULD NOT JOIN

ANY IZMIR DEMONSTRATION.

2. PRIOR TO MAY 1, RUMORS OF MAY 1 VIOLENCE CIRCULATED FREELY, WHICH THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HELPED FEED BY FOR EXAMPLE REPORTING THAT ANARCHIST GROUPS HAD TARGETED AEGEAN CITIES AS PILOT AREAS. ON APRIL 30, THE IZMIR CHIEF OF POLICE TRIED TO REASSURE THE LOCAL POPULAOZON BY EXPLAINING THE STRICT SECURITY MEASURES BEING TAKEN, INCLUDING EXTENSIVE SEARCHES OF ASSOCIATIONS AND COFFEE HOUSES. NEVERTHELESS, ON MAY 1, IZMIR STREETS WERE

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PRACTICALLY DESERTED, WIHC THE CITY BEING CALLED "A TEXAS GHOST TOWN."

3. COMMENT. IZMIR'S INHABITANTS SEEMED READY TO BELIEVE THE WORST, AND THEIR REACTION PBLNTS UP THEIR DOUBTS ABOUT THE ABILITY OF SECURITY FORCES TO EXCERCISE EFFECTIVE CONTROL. THUS, THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON MAY2 OF THE CREATION OF A FOURTH CRIMINAL COURT IN IZMIR, PROBABLY ONE OF THE NEWLY ANNOUNCED "OZEL IHTISAS MAHKEMELERI" (SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL COURTS DESIGNED TO DEAL ONLY WITH ANARCHISTIC EVENTS), IS THE TYPE OF MEASURE LIKELY TO BE READILY ACCEPTED BY MOST OF THE PEOPLE, WHO SEEM GENERALLY PREPARED TO COUNTENANCE INCREASINGLY STRICT GOVERNMENT MEASURES DESIGNED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO CONTROL VIOLENCE.
MOFFETT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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